

REMARKS

1. Applicants request non-entry of any previously filed unentered amendments, and entry of the Amendments herein. Please refer to attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal (form PTO/SB/30) for details.

2. In the above-captioned Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) in view of Mazet (U.S. Patent No. 6,672,147). Claims 3, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Mazet in view of Amano et al. (2004/0060343). These rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) in view of Mazet. Claims 3, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Mazet in view of Amano.

Mazet does *not* teach or suggest determining *a value based on engine speed and engine load*, as stated in independent claims 1 and 14 as amended, nor *determining a value that is a function of engine speed and engine load*, as set forth in independent claim 7 as amended.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, and 14, as amended, and all of their respective dependent claims, may be passed to allowance.

Amano teaches measuring the amount of time required to make the pressure P higher than the predetermined pressure P1 with a timer, and storing a value indicated by the timer in the memory. Amano does not teach or imply comparing the difference to at least one predetermined value, and activating at least one timer *based on the difference*, as stated in dependent claims 3, 11, and 18.

Thus, claims 3, 11, and 18 of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Mazet and/or Amano. Combining these references fails to teach or yield the invention as claimed. The combination of these references fails to teach or suggest all the elements of the claim. Further, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to make such a combination. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious in light of any combination of Mazet and/or Amano.

Furthermore, claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20 are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

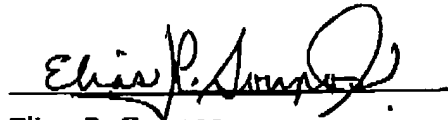
4. The Applicants amend claims above without adding new matter. The amendment of the claims is not an admission that Mazet teaches these claims nor that Mazet in view of Amano renders the limitations obvious. The amendments herein reflect the Applicants' desire to expeditiously proceed and prosecute the resultant claims in this application.

5. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication may advance the prosecution of the present application. Notice of allowance of claims 1-20 is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



Elias P. Soupos
Registration No. 57,375
Agent for Applicants
Voice: (708) 865-4178
Fax: (708) 865-3474